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(54) **COMPUTER INTEGRATED
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR
RESTAURANTS**

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"Tools of the Trade: Technology in the Restaurant", *Restaurants USA Magazine*, Sep. 1997.

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Related U.S. Application Data

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(51) Int. Cl.⁷ **G06F 17/60**

(52) U.S. Cl. **705/15**

(58) Field of Search 705/15, 16, 21,
705/17, 18

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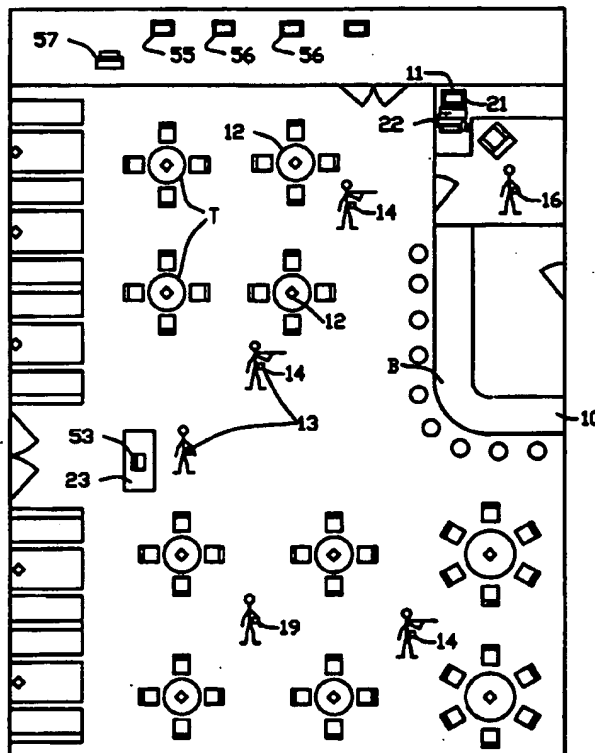
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(57) ABSTRACT

A computer integrated communication system for restaurants that includes a central server and a series of table units and staff units. The table and staff units each include a display and wireless communication device that enables customer request information and other communications to be sent from the table unit to the staff units either directly or by first being passed through the central server unit. The central server further can monitor the communications and direct the request to another staff member or management for action in the event of delays or other problems with the customer's request.

8 Claims, 13 Drawing Sheets



Consumption “2 : the act or process of consuming” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997. **Consuming** “2 : to utilize economic goods” *Id.* Goods “

Corresponding “1 . . . b : RELATED, ACCOMPANYING” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997.

Criterion “1 : a standard on which a judgment or decision may be based.” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997

Designate “1: to indicate and set apart for a specific purpose, office or duty” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997.

Efficacy, *n*, “the power to produce an effect” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997.

Festophobia, The Examiner hereby defines Festophobia as: the fear (either real or imaginary) by patent applicant(s) of amending claim phrase(s) during ex parte examination because such amendment(s) *might* narrow claim scope and thus unduly restrict or even bar ‘equivalents’ of those amended claim phrase(s) under the ‘doctrine of equivalents’ during a subsequent inter party patent infringement lawsuit which is currently nonexistent.

For “1 a — used as a function word to indicate purpose <a grant ~ studying medicine>” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997.

Generate “: to bring into existence . . .” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997.

Information “2 a . . . (3): FACTS, DATA . . .” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997.

Item: “2 : a distinct part in an enumeration, account, or series : ARTICLE . . .” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997.

Manage “1 : to handle or direct with a degree of skill . . . 1 a : to direct or carry on business or affairs;” Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition, Merriam-Webster Inc., Springfield, M.A., 1997.

Material “1 a : the elements constituents, or substance of which something is composed or can